

Washington State Patrol Media Advisory

Chief John R. Batiste



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*****For Immediate Release*****

Date: January 10, 2006
Contact: Trooper Kevin Forrester, WSP Academy
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The WSP Deploys 118 Tasers as an Additional Tool for Troopers

Where: Washington State Patrol Academy
631 W Dayton-Airport Road
Shelton, WA 98584-8945

When: Thursday, January 12, 2006

Time: 10 a.m.

Speakers: Captain Fred Fakkema, Trooper Mark Tegard (*Belt Weapons Instructor*)

Why: In the last two years alone, 166 WSP officers have been injured due to use of force. These use of force injuries occurred during altercations, arrests and pursuits of non-compliant individuals. The WSP is deploying a less-lethal tool to troopers throughout Washington State in an effort to reduce injuries to officers and non-compliant individuals. 118 officers will receive eight hours of training on the use of the taser system beginning this week. The deployment is based on analysis of five years worth of WSP use of force data to ensure that the Tasers are provided to the areas where future uses of force are most likely to occur.

Photo Opportunity: As a part of the training troopers are required to be tased. The media will have an opportunity to film/photograph a live scenario where a WSP trooper will be tased.

Members of the media will also have an opportunity to experience being tased. If you are interested, please contact Trooper Kevin Forrester prior to the media event to make arrangements.

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